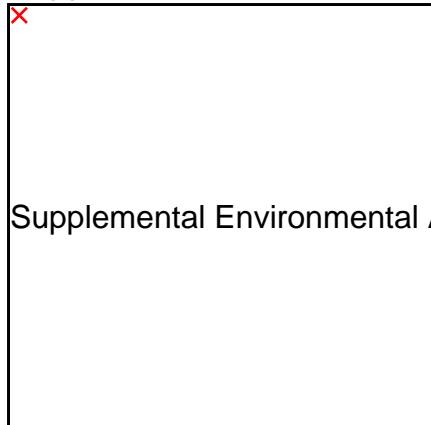


Supplemental Environmental Assessment available for sand placement at Westport



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SEATTLE - The Army Corps of Engineers plans to place sand at the rapidly eroding shoreline adjacent to the Grays Harbor south jetty breach fill in Westport, Wash. The Corps would place about 20,000 cubic yards of sand along 1,000 linear feet of shoreline. A draft supplemental environmental assessment of the proposed sand placement is available for public review on line by clicking [here](#) or type in: http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/doc_table.cfm

The Corps has been monitoring the Half Moon Bay area and has determined that more than 15,000 cubic yards of material has already been lost to erosion since last February's sand placement. The proposed sand placement is intended to prevent another breach from forming and threatening the south jetty and federal navigation channel.

The Corps is coordinating this work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries as required under the Endangered Species Act. The Corps has also submitted a Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination to the Washington State Department of Ecology and City of Westport for this project.

The Corps plans to place approximately 20,000 cubic yards of the material above mean higher high water level adjacent to Half Moon Bay. Sand placement is expected to begin as early as December and take no more than three weeks. The sand is already on site and will be hauled approximately one half mile to the threatened breach fill area. The Corps will work to avoid areas where the agency has planted native dune grass. Any impacted dune grass will be replanted in the spring.
The Corps continues to move forward on its long-term management strategy study for the Grays Harbor navigation project.

The purpose of this study is to assess the threat to the federal navigation project of a breach between the south jetty and adjacent land mass and to recommend the most appropriate long-term strategy to maintain and protect the federal navigation project. The study focuses on the south jetty, Half Moon Bay, South Beach, Point Chehalis, and the navigation channel.

As part of the Corps' effort to develop a long-term management strategy for Grays Harbor navigation, the Corps of Engineers and Grays Harbor College are hosting a Nov. 9 Open House, where local experts will display information about Grays Harbor's natural and economic resources. By providing an opportunity for the public to learn about Grays Harbor's diverse resources, the community and Corps will be able to work together to come up with the best possible strategy.

Those attending can see the displays Nov. 9 from 3-7 p.m. in the Grays Harbor College student union building. Local and regional experts will be on hand to discuss each display.

Exhibitors include the Army Corps of Engineers, Grays Harbor College Natural Resources Club, Surfriders, Coastal Communities, Grays Harbor Oyster Growers, Port of Grays Harbor, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and more.